

Filed for intro on 06/04/2001

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 418
By Harper

A RESOLUTION To commemorate the opening of the Country
Music Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, This General Assembly is pleased to specially recognize those fine institutions that celebrate the many aspects of artistic expression and bring the joys of culture to the citizens of this State; and

WHEREAS, The newly opened Country Music Hall of Fame is one such estimable institution, an architecturally ambitious building, which proudly salutes the men and women who have earned Nashville the title "Music City USA"; and

WHEREAS, Recently unveiled at its grand opening celebration on May 17, 2001, the \$37 million Hall of Fame houses plaques memorializing the members, a collection of over one million artifacts, a research library, and the offices of the Country Music Foundation (CMF); and

WHEREAS, Located at the corner of Demonbreun Street and Fifth Avenue South, the Country Music Hall of Fame contains 136,000 square feet spread throughout four levels that comprise three distinct areas: the conservatory, the Hall of Fame area, and the museum itself; and

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WHEREAS, Because country music is such an accessible art form, beloved by people from all walks of life, the architects of the Hall of Fame sought to achieve a dual purpose in the design of the building: construct an easy and welcoming building, which would invite the pleasure of all, while at the same time amply paying respect to those singers and songwriters whose success necessitated the building of the Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Tuck Hinton Architects, the Nashville firm responsible for the architectural design of the Hall of Fame, and Ralph Appelbaum is responsible for the exhibit design, they together achieved great success in their design of the building, smoothly melding the architectural elements of the building with the exhibits themselves; and

WHEREAS, Intended as an abstract representation of country music, the Hall of Fame imparts the history of the country music genre through its design, each element of the building's composition paying homage to the legacy of country music; and

WHEREAS, Principal designer, Seab Tuck, used heavy, stable materials--Tennessee's crab orchard stone, brick, rough aggregate concrete, and rust-colored steel--to symbolize the earthy soil from which country music grew, while the designer shaped these materials in forms that allude to country music's visual and aural imagery; and

WHEREAS, Various materials in the spacious conservatory reflect the manifold influences on country music: the heavy bolted steel frames of railroad bridges, the narrow slits of prison windows, the forms of farm silos; plaques memorializing Hall of Fame members are arranged around the room imitating notes on a lined sheet of music, while the placement of the windows in the wall echoes the black/white rhythm of a piano's keys; and

WHEREAS, Representing the heart and soul of country music, the Hall of Fame area is a reverent place, its round shape inspiring contemplation and its upward windows resembling those found in churches; and

WHEREAS, With its bold architectural details, the Country Music Hall of Fame bravely claims its place in the panoramic history of Nashville, asserting the importance of country music to the construction of Nashville's identity; and

WHEREAS, A celebration of the rich history of country music, the Hall of Fame archives and documents the heritage of country music, finding in the fiddles, steel guitars, and plaintive wails of its musicians something truly vital and something worth enshrining; and

WHEREAS, A testament of working-class hopes, humor, faith, and values, country music illustrates the common human condition, the trials and tribulations of life, and its unexpected joys and successes; and

WHEREAS, Touching the human heart and soul, country music artists sing and write songs composed of the hurt, pain, and joy of their own experiences, which are common to all people and with which all people can identify; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the newly constructed Country Music Hall of Fame reflects the many aspects of country music in both its design and its exhibits, for it is because of this same integration--the interplay between country music songs and the men and women who sing them--that so many people empathize with, and understand, country music: the men and women who comprise the country music industry live the lives they sing about, enabling people to identify with country music because it identifies with them; and

WHEREAS, Country music represents the life force and the backbone of the American people; and

WHEREAS, The Country Music Hall of Fame appropriately symbolizes country music's role in today's society, showcasing its roots in rural America while acknowledging the new directions awaiting the present artists of country music; and

WHEREAS, With its prime location in downtown Nashville, the Hall of Fame is sure to enjoy unbounded success and to bring great honor to the state of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and celebrate the triumphal grand opening of the Country Music Hall of Fame and recognize the invaluable contributions the Hall of Fame makes to our community and its cultural landscape, firmly claiming Nashville's place as Music City USA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.